Growth rate of grain production

*359. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while grain production is growing at the rate of 1.7 per cent per annum, the population growth rate is 1.9 per cent per annum;

(b) whether with this population growth rate, it will be difficult for the Government to provide food security to the people; and

(c) if so, how do Government plan to increase the growth rate of agriculture for meeting the future demands?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) According to Technical Group on Population Projection constituted by the Planning Commission, the annual compound growth rate of population in the decade of 90s (1991—2000) is estimated at 1.79% per annum. The compound growth rate of foodgrains production (during 1990-91 to 1999-2000) is estimated at 1.97%. During 1999-2000, foodgrains production is estimated to be an all time record of 205.91 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) The production of foodgrains is continuously monitored and various steps have been taken to achieve higher production levels. These include, *inter-alia,* implementation of Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, National. Pulses Development Project, National Oilseeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit Scheme. Under these programmes/ project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers, are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the National Agenda for Governance, the Government has set priorities for doubling food production in ten years (1997-98 to 2007-08), adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of

farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources. These strategies will go a long way to provide food security to the people.

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme

360. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3549 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th April, 2000 and state:

(a) names of the thirty-two farmers who have been selected under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme including names of their villages and districts and details thereof;

(b) names of places in every district in Himachal Pradesh including locations that have been selected for "district level awareness-cum-training programme."

(c) whether the backward areas and colonies inhabited by the poor people have been taken care of in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Details of 32 farmers (alongwith their villages and district) covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) as supplied by the Implementing Agency are given in Statement-I *(See* below).

(b) Names of districts and places selected for conducting District Level Awareness cum Training Programmes under NAIS in Himachal Pradesh as supplied by the Implementing Agency are given in Statement-II. *(See* below).

(c) and (d) To give wider publicity to the scheme in the State including backward areas measures to spread the message of crop insurance through posters, hand-bills, jingles on All India Radio

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.